

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /093 W

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R 091245Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9661

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMMBASSY BONN 4430

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EBWT, ENRG, UR, US

SUBJECT: INOZEMTSEV COMMENT ON SOVIET-EE RELATIONS AND CONVERSION
TO NATURAL GAS

USDOC FOR BEWT/USSR

REF: MOSCOW 1771 (NOTAL)

1. COMMENT BY IMEMO DIRECTOR AND CPSU CC CANDIDATE MEMBER N.N.
INOZEMTSEV TO EMBOFF DURING SECRETARY'S SPASO LUNCHEON FOR
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GROMYKO JANUARY 22 MAY BE OF INTEREST IN CONJUNCTION WITH REFTL

REPORT THAT SOVIETS HAVE REACTIVATED "NORTH STAR" GAS PIPELINE AND LIQUIFICATION PLANT PROJECT. EMBOFF VENTURED VIEW THAT COMING ON LINE OF LARGE NEW SOVIET OIL AVAILABILITIES IN LATE 1950'S HAD BMMKHFD# SIGNIFICANT SINGLE FACTOR PERMITTING TRANSFORMATION OF SOVIET-EE RELATIONS FROM LARTELY POLITICAL TO LARGELY ECONOMIC, AND ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO "SOCIALIST COMMUNITY" WHEN USSR CEASED TO BE OIL EXPORTER IN MID-1980'S. INOZEMTSEV REPLIED THAT THERE WERE MANY ELEMENTS INVOLVED (MENTIONING EE OIL PURCHASES ON NON-SOVIET MARKETS) BUT THAT BASICALLY THE ANSWER WAS SIMPLE: NATURAL GAS. IN CONTRAST TO OIL, SOVIET RESERVES OF NATURAL GAS WERE IMMENSE, AND ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION PRESENTED MANY COMPLEX PROBLEMS, THIS WAS THE OBVIOUS DIRECTION FOR SOVIET POLICY. ASKED WHETHER CONVERSION OF INDUSTRIES FROM OIL TO NATURAL GAS WOULD NOT BE VERY COSTLY, ESPECIALLY FOR THE SMALLER EE COUNTRIES, INOZEMTSEV REPLIED CONFIDENTLY THAT IT WOULD NOT. FROM THE SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE STRESS ON OCEAN TRANSPORT AND LESS ON PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT, BUT CONVERSION OF INDUSTRIAL PLANT TO NATURAL GAS APPEARED TO BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE TECHNOLOGICALLY AND RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE IN ECONOMIC TERMS. STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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